

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1920.

TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
LYDD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report upon the General Health Statistics, Preventive Work, etc., of the Urban District of Lydd for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

The population for the year 1920 is estimated at 3,060 for the purposes of the Birth Rate. For the calculation of the Death Rate the estimated figure is 2,246. The difference between them being due to the fact that during the War, and for a period after, the civilian population only was calculated for the latter purpose.

Physical Features.

GENERAL CHARACTERS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough is situated upon flat, low lying ground, but a few feet above sea level, with a pervious sub-soil. No rivers and no special features. The chief occupation of the inhabitants are agricultural, and call for no special comment.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births was fifty-nine, giving a Birth Rate of 19·28 per 1,000 population, as compared with 25·4 for England and Wales and 24·9 for 148 smaller towns of from twenty to fifty thousand population.

Males	...	...	...	Thirty-Eight
Females	...	...	..	Twenty-One

Of these, two were illegitimate. One Male and One Female.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths was twenty-one. In this total is included four persons whose deaths were registered in Lydd, but who belonged elsewhere. This gives a Death Rate of 9·3 per 1,000 and a Residential Death Rate of 7·5 per 1,000. This compares with a rate of 12·4 for England and Wales, and 11·3 for country towns of population from twenty thousand to fifty thousand.

The Infant Mortality was one. Total number of Births, fifty-nine. A mortality of 17 per 1,000 as compared with 80 for England and Wales and 80 for the 148 smaller towns. The cause of death was certified as Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3 ; Bronchitis, 3 ; Cerebral Hemorrhage, 3 ; Found Drowned, 4 ; Hanging, 1 ; Senile Decay, 2 ; Heart Failure, 2 ; Placenta Praevia, 1 ; Brights Disease, 1 ; Thrombosis, 1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Three cases of Tuberculosis and two of Erysipelas were notified during the year. A remarkable freedom from Infectious Disease.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.

The Water Supply is abundant and of excellent quality as the following Analysis shows.

			<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total Solid Residue ..	...	...	14.5
Chlorine ...	...	...	2.4
Free Ammonia ..	...	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates...	...	...	0.0
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80 F.	...	...	0.014
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 80 F.	...	...	0.024
Nitrites ...	...	...	Absent

The source is from water works situate upon a bed of shingle some two miles from Lydd, drawing the supply from shallow wells constantly fed by an underground flow in the direction of the sea.

During the year, acting upon your instructions, I inspected the site with the County Medical Officer of Health, and furnished you with a report upon the possible sources of contamination. Briefly summarised, these were from possible future contamination from privies that might be erected in connection with the stone crushing works in the course of construction on the site ; from the lavatory compartments of corridor trains passing over the line, which runs within fifty yards of the wells ; and lastly, from casual pedestrians who may at present freely wander over the site. Acting on the advice of the County Medical Officer of Health, I recommended you to make certain stipulations for the disposal of any sewage from the stone crushing company's premises, by incineration in the adjacent furnaces of the water works ; and the County Medical Officer of Health himself undertook to apply to the railway company for the closing of any lavatory accommodation on trains while passing over that section of the line. With regard to the third possible source of danger, it was not thought necessary to enforce the expense of effectively enclosing the area involved.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is effected by means of earth closets, pit closets and cesspools. I have previously reported to you the unsatisfactory nature of many of the pit closets within the Borough, and you recommended that the owners should be called upon to put the same under proper repair : this has been carried out. I would beg leave to point out that this type of closet, even when under repair,

cannot be made free from objection, especially after a spell of wet weather, and that it would be highly advisable, as opportunity occurs, gradually to effect the effacement of these from the district. The main difficulty in the way of this is the fact of the expense of building cesspools. The difficulty in some cases of finding space for the accommodation of cesspools, and the same difficulty in those places prohibits the use of earth closets, since there is no place for the emptying of the same. Earth closets are, without doubt, one of the cleanest and least objectionable methods of dealing with sewage in a rural district such as this.

I would again like to urge upon the Council to consider the advisability of their adoption of a scheme of public scavenging.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I append the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Dairies and Cow-Sheds in the Borough have been inspected and found in good order.

The Milk Supply during the year has been very short owing to a number of dairymen giving up business, the chief reason, I understand, being the difficulty of securing grazing sufficiently near the Borough and the difficulty of securing, and the high price of, labour.

MEAT.

The Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Premises have been inspected and found satisfactory.

OTHER FOODS.

The Bake-Houses have been inspected and found in order, and no special questions concerning other foods have arisen during the year to require observation.

HOUSING.

Owing to the removal of the camp the shortage of houses is not now so noticeable. Many of the houses have been put into a better state of repair, and no cases of overcrowding have come to my notice.

I am happy to acknowledge the ready co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector—Mr. Laslett—in my work.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MARTIN BUTTON,

Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lydd.

UNDERCLIFF,

RYE, SUSSEX,

18th April, 1921.

URBAN DISTRICT OF LYDD.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Total number of visits paid by Inspectors during the year 1920.

	No. in District	No. of Visits in 1920	No. of Defects found	No. of Defects remedied
Bake-Houses ...	2	4	0	0
Dairies, Cow-Sheds and Milk Shops ...	4	4	0	0
Slaughter-Houses ...	2	4	0	0
Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0	0
Houses Let in Lodgings about 20		4	17	put in order
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ...	10	4	0	0

NUISANCES FOUND OR REPORTED DURING THE YEAR (OTHER THAN THOSE ENUMERATED IN THE ABOVE TABULATION).

Re Overcrowding ... No. investigated, 2 No. abated, 2
 Re Sanitary Accommodation... No. investigated, 10 No. abated, 10

Numbers of each type of Sanitary Convenience in the district (approximate)

W.C.s into Drainage System	...	...	Nil
W.C s into Cesspools	...	...	One third
Earth Closets or Privy Middens	...	...	One third
Pail Closets	...	...	One third

Notices Served : Statutory, Two Informal, Nil
 No. of Houses etc., Disinfected—Three
 No. of Articles of Clothing, etc., Disinfected—Three Households
 Legal Proceedings and results—Nil

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations :

(a) Number of Houses inspected during the year under Section 17 of H.T.P. Act	...	..
(b) Number found Unfit for Human Habitation	...	Two
(c) Number of representations for Closing Orders	...	One
(d) Closing Orders made	...	One
(e) Number of Houses put into proper repair, but in which no closing order was necessary	..	Ten

Number of New Houses erected during 1920 :

(a) Under District Council's Scheme	...	None as yet
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	Three

The Housing shortage is less acute than in 1919 owing to the removal of the Camp.

THOS. W. C. LASLETT,

Inspector of Nuisances.

